

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /069 W
-----069314 211001Z /15
P R 200853Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9954
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, KS
SUBJ: PRESS SUMMARIES: REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S WAKE
FOREST SPEECH

SUMMARY. ALL PRESS CARRIED PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AS FRONTPAGE
NEWS. FOLLOWING DAY WITNESSED SEVERAL EDITORIALS AND COMMEN-
TARIES WHICH VOICED FAVORABLE REACTION TO WHAT WAS CONSIDERED
AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF US POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORTING ON SPEECH SELECTED THREE GENERAL POINTS AS
MOST IMPORTANT: A) STABILITY IN NE ASIA IS ESSENTIAL;
B) NE ASIA IS A VITAL AREA AMONG THE GREAT POWERS AND ONE
IN WHICH US MILITARY STRENGTH WILL NOT BE REDUCED; C) A
STRONG WARNING BY THE US TO THE SOVIET UNION. HEADLINES
QUOTING FROM SPEECH READ "VITAL THAT NE ASIA REMAIN STABLE";
AMERICA MUST MAINTAIN CAPACITY TO HONOR COMMITMENTS IN FAR
EAST"; "US WILL MAINTAIN AND EVEN ENHANCE MILITARY STRENGTH
IN NE ASIA".

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2. COMMENTARY WAS, WITH ONE EXCEPTION (CHOSUN ILBO),
FAVORABLE. KOREA HEARALD NOTED "THIS LATEST REAFFIRMATION...
SOUNDS MOST ASSURING TO US". SEOUL SINMUN CONSIDERED THE
SPEECH "AN IMPORTANT DECLARATION" AND HOPED IT WOULD "MARK
A POINT FROM WHICH THE US "HOPED IT MARK A POINT
FOR THE US TO RENEW ITS DETERMINATION TO DEFEND THE

FREE WORLD." SINA ILBO NOTED CARTER'S "STRONG WORDS" WITH WHICH HE BROUGHT A "NEW DIMENSION" IN RENEWING US DEFENSE POLICY. CHOONGANG ILBO: "CARTER'S SPEECH AND TEAM SPIRIT '78 WILL CONSIDERABLY CONTRIBUTE IN DISCARDING MISUNDERSTANDING AND MISCALCULATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NE ASIA TO US INTERESTS." HANGUK ILBO COMPARED THE SPEECH TO CARTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS AND NOTED A "SIGNIFICANT CHANGE" TO A MORE HARD-LINE POSITION, PARTICULARLY DIRECTED AT THE SOVIET UNION. HANGUK ILBO OBSERVED "IT APPEARS THE WITHDRAWAL POLICY IS SOMEWHAT CHANGING", EXPLAINING THAT ALTHOUGH THE WITHDRAWAL WOULD CONTINUE, THE QUESTION OF RE-INTRODUCTION OF US TROOPS IN A KOREAN CONTINGENCY NOW SEEMS MORE DEFINITELY SETTLED.

3. ONLY NON-FAVORABLE COMMENTARY WAS CHOSUN ILBO PIECE WHICH OBSERVED US/NATO TREATY LANGUAGE (AN ATTACK ON A NATO COUNTRY WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ATTACK UPON THE US) IS STRONGER THAN THE US/ROK TREATY LANGUAGE (US/ROK WILL MEET A COMMON THREAT ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES) AND CONSIDERED THE TREATY COMMITMENT "VERY VAGUE" AND OF "EXTREMELY LIMITED DEFINITION". CHOSUN ILBO EVEN MANAGED TO WORK IN ONCE AGAIN US/ROK TREATY COMPARISON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS SUMMARIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0726, D780122-0324
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780347/aaaabnjq.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e540f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3267434
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SUMMARIES: REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S WAKE FOREST SPEECH SUMMARY. ALL PRESS CARRIED PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AS F
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, PGOV, KS, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e540f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014